Let’s strike up the band

Manningham musicians of all ages will entertain with old favourites at Sunday concert

Musi: | Shane Tabbot

It has 45 players, all ages ranging between 8 and 76, and plays in venues across Manningham, but it’s not a typical big band.

It’s the Manningham Concert Band and it accommodates what may be the most unusual player: seven-year-old musical director Andrew van Gemert. “It’s one of those few groups in which you do get that age and gender mix you don’t see in too many other groups,” van Gemert said.

The band, which is held to weekends in March at the Manningham Mechanics Hall, has been attracting gender and generational gaps since its first concert performed in the mid-70s.

Van Gemert said the band’s wide appeal for audiences and musicians, was born out of the band’s special and unique instrumental sound that has remained consistent over the years. “It ranges from traditional tunes and old jazz tunes to more popular tunes with sounds that make you feel like you’re in a concert hall,” van Gemert said.

“Some instruments include the tenor saxophone, cornet, drums, trumpets, trombones, French horns, tubas and a large range of percussion instruments,” van Gemert said.

“We try to provide the opportunity for people to keep learning.”

The Manningham Concert Band’s Autumn Concert will be held on Sunday, March 23, at 2pm, at the Mechanics Hall. Further details can be found on its Facebook page.

For children under 13, tickets: $5 per person. “Vegetarian.” or $10 per family.